GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PANCHAYATI RAJ
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1198
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006
BACKWARD REGION GRANT FUND
Lagadapati Shri Rajagopal

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Empowered Sub-Committee of the National Development Council on Panchayati Raj asked the State Governments to give their suggestions on the Backward Region Grant Fund;

(b) if so, the States that have given their suggestions;

(c) the details of suggestions that have so far been received by the Government;

(d) whether the fund presently covers only 250 districts in the country;

(e) if so, the details of such districts, State-wise;

(f) the details of States which have formed the District Planning Committees for this Fund; and

(g) the reasons for non-constitution of the Committee by other States?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) to (c): Arrangements for the implementation of the Backward Regions Grant Fund constituted one of the Agenda items for the meeting of the Empowered Sub-Committee of the National Development Council on Administrative and Financial Strengthening of Panchayats, held on 13th September, 2006. The salient features of the Backward Regions Programme Fund were presented to the Empowered Sub-Committee during the meeting. The draft guidelines for the Programme had also been circulated earlier to the States as part of the process of consultation with the State Governments. Consultations were held with the representatives of the State Governments during the meeting of the Committee of Chief Secretaries and Secretaries of Panchayati Raj held on 13th September, 2006 and during the meeting of the State Secretaries of Panchayati Raj held on 10th November, 2006. The major suggestions received from the States are given in Annexe-I.

(d): Yes, Sir. However, any districts carved out of these districts after 2001 would be included with the proviso that the fund allocated for the original district would be shared between the two districts created from the earlier undivided district covered under BRGF.

(e): A State-wise list of districts selected under BRGF is at Annexe II.

(f): Setting up of District Planning Committees (DPCs) is a mandatory obligation under Article 243 ZD of the Constitution. The Constitution enjoins that all States and Union Territories (except Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, J&K, the Hill areas in the State of Manipur, the Hill areas of the District of Darjeeling for which Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council exists, the NCT of Delhi and Sixth Schedule Areas where Autonomous District Councils have been constituted), to set up DPCs in order to consolidate the plans prepared by Panchayats and Municipalities into the draft development plans for the district. 23 of the 27 States which have districts covered under the Backward Region Grant Fund are required to set up DPCs under the Constitutional provision. Only 12 of these 23 States have set up DPCs. Details are given in Annexe III.

Annexe I

Major suggestions made by State Governments during the meeting of the Empowered Sub-Committee held on 13.9.2006 and subsequent consultations.

1. Bihar The constitution of DPCs, completion of activity mapping and preparation of training calendar should be the pre-requisites to be completed before 31st March, 2007. The States should be allowed to complete their `desirable` pre-requisite during the year 2007-08. The programme should commence in erstwhile Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana districts simultaneously.

2. Haryana Mewat District should be included in the scheme. States should be consulted while selecting districts to be covered under Backward Regions Grant Fund.

3. Himachal Pradesh Block should be considered as the unit for allocation of funds.

4. Gujarat Tehsil should be considered as the unit for allocation of funds. Kutch should be included in the list of districts selected for the programme.

5. Jharkhand There must be the provision of a Saving Clause for those Panchayats where elections cannot be held because of certain unforeseen circumstances such as Court Intervention etc.

6. Karnataka Taluks should have been the basic units for selection under Backward Regions Grant Fund.

7. Kerala Backward Regions Grant Fund may be permitted to commence straightaway in all erstwhile Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana Districts, without waiting for the latter to be completed. Directions should be issued to Central Ministries implementing flagship programmes to adopt a decentralised planning methodology, to enable the BRGF otherwise it would be difficult to operationalise suggestions for decentralized planning for the programme.

8. Madhya Pradesh The scheme should concentrate on generic provisions in view of the differences in the geographical status and socio-economic development of the States.

9. Tripura SC/ST population should be taken into account in addition to area and population for allocation of funds. North Tripura and South Tripura districts should be included in the list.

10. Uttar Pradesh Constitution of DPCs should not be a pre-requisite during 2006-07.

11. Uttaranchal Districts covered under the schemes should be changed on rotation basis.

12. West Bengal Block should be considered as the unit for allocation of funds.

Annexe II

Backward Region Grant Fund- List of Districts

Andhra Pradesh

1. Adilabad 2. Anantpur 3. Chittoor 4. Cuddappah 5. Karimnagar 6.Khammam
7 Mahbubnagar 8. Medak 9. Nalgonda 10.Nizamabad 11.Rangareddy 12.Vizianagaram
13. Warangal

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Upper Subansiri

Assam

1. Barpeta 2. Bongaigaon 3. Cachar 4. Dhemaji 5. Goalpara 6. Hailakandi
7 Karbi Anglong 8. Kokrajhar 9. Marigaon 10. North Lakhimpur(Laksha)
11. North Cachar Hills

Bihar

1. Araria 2. Aurangabad 3. Banka 4. Begusarai 5. Bhagalpur 6. Bhojpur
7 Buxar 8. Darbhanga 9. Gaya 10. Gopalganj 11. Jamui 12.Jehanabad
13. Kaimur/Bhabua 14. Katihar 15. Kishanganj 16. Khagaria 17. Lakhisarai 18. Madhepura
19. Madhubani 20. Munger 21. Muzzarffarpur 22. Nalanda 23. Nawadah
24. Patna 25. Pashchim Champaran 26. Purba Champaran 27. Purnia 28. Rohtas
29. Saharsa 30. Samastipur 31. Saran 32. Sheikhpura 33. Sheohar 34. Sitamarhi
35. Supaul 36. Vaishali

Chhattisgarh

1. Bastar 2. Bilaspur 3. Dantewada 4. Dhamtari 5. Jashpur 6. Kanker
7 Kawardha 8. Korba 9. Koriya 10. Mahasamund 11. Raigarh 12. Rajnandgaon
13. Sarguja

Gujarat

1. Banaskantha 2. Dangs 3. Dahod 4. Narmada 5. Panch Mahals 6. Sabarkantha

Haryana

1. Mohindergarh 2. Sirsa

Himachal Pradesh

1. Chamba 2. Sirmaur

Jammu & Kashmir

1. Doda 2. Kupwara 3. Poonch

Jharkhand

1. Bokaro 2. Chatra 3. Deoghar 4. Dhanbad 5. Dumka 6. Garhwa

7 Giridih 8. Godda 9. Gumla 10. Hazaribagh 11.Jamtara 12. Kodarma
13. Latehar 14. Lohardagga 15. Pachhim Singhbhum 16. Pakaur 17. Palamu
18. Ranchi 19. Sahibganj 20. Saraikela 21. Simdega

Karnataka

1. Bidar 2. Chitradurga 3. Davangere 4. Gulbarga 5. Raichur

Kerala

1. Palakkad 2. Wynad

Madhya Pradesh

1. Balaghat 2. Barwani 3. Betul 4. Chhatarpur 5. Damoh 6. Dhar
7 Dindori 8. Guna 9. Jhabua 10.Katni 11.Khandwa 12.Mandla
13. Panna 14. Rajgarh 15. Rewa 16.Satna 17.Seoni 18.Shahdol
19. Sheopur 20. Shivpuri 21. Siddhi 22.Tikamgarh 23.Umaria 24.West Nimar

Maharashtra

1. Ahmednagar 2. Amravati 3. Aurangabad 4. Bhandara 5. Chandrapur 6. Dhule
7 Gadchiroli 8. Gondia 9. Hingoli 10.Nanded 11.Nandurbar 12.Yavatmal

Manipur

1. Chandel 2. Churchandrapur 3.Tamenlong

Meghalaya

1. Ri Bhoi 2. South Garo Hills 3. West Garo Hills

Mizoram

1. Lawngtlai 2. Saiha

Nagaland

1. Mon 2.Tuensang 3. Workha

Orissa

1. Bolangir 2. Boudh 3. Debagarh 4. Dhenkanal 5. Gajapati 6. Ganjam
7 Jharsuguda 8. Kalahandi 9. Keonjhar 10.Koraput 11.Malkangiri 12.Mayurbhanj
13.Nabrangpur 14.Nuapada 15.Phulbani 16.Rayagada 17.Sambalpur 18.Sonapur
19.Sundargarh

Punjab

1. Hoshiarpur

Rajasthan

1. Banswara 2. Barmer 3. Chittaurgarh 4. Dungarpur 5. Jaisalmer
6. Jalor 7. Jhalawar 8. Karoli 9.Sawai Madhopur 10.Sirohi
11.Tonk 12.Udaipur

Sikkim

1. Sikkim North

Tamil Nadu

1. Cuddalore 2. Dindigul 3. Nagapattinam 4. Sivagangai 5.Tiruvannamalai
6. Villupuram

Tripura

1. Dhalai

Uttar Pradesh

1. Ambedkar Nagar 2. Azamgarh 3. Bahraich 4. Balrampur 5. Banda
6. Barabanki 7. Basti 8. Budaun 9. Chandauli 10. Chitrakoot 11. Etah
12. Farrukhabad 13. Fatehpur 14.Gonda 15.Gorakhpur 16. Hamirpur 17.Hardoi
18. Jalaun 19. Jaunpur 20.Kaushambi 21.Kushinagar 22. Lakhimpur Kheri
23. Lalitpur 24. Maharajganj 25.Mahoba 26.Mirzapur 27. Pratapgarh
28. Raebareli 29. Sant Kabir Nagar 30. Shravasti 31. Siddharthanagar 32.Sitapur
33. Sonebhadra 34. Unnao

Uttaranchal

1. Chamoli 2. Champawat 3. Tehri Garhwal

West Bengal

1. Bankura 2. Birbhum 3. Dakshin Dinajpur 4. Jalpaiguri 5. Malda
6. Midnapur East 7. Midnapur West 8. Murshidabad 9. Purulia
10. South 24 Parganas 11. Uttar Dinajpur

Annexe III

Table A

States that have constituted District Planning Committees in accordance with Article 243 of the Constitution

1. Chhattisgarh 2. Himachal Pradesh 3. Karnataka 4. Kerala 5. Madhya Pradesh
6. Manipur 7. Rajasthan 8. Sikkim 9. Tamilnadu 10. West Bengal
11. Assam 12. Orissa
(Goa has set up DPCs, but is not covered under the BRGF)

Table B

States that have not set up DPCs and the reasons thereof

Sl. No.	State	Latest Position and remarks
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh had issued an Ordinance in September 2005 for the constitution of DPCs pending the passage of the relevant bill in the Legislative Assembly. The ordinance has now been replaced by legislation. Under the legislation, the Chairperson of the District Panchayat is to be the Chairperson of the DPC. It has been reported that the elections to the DPCs will be completed by January 2007
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	It has been reported by the State that the composition and terms of reference of DPCs have been notified and that immediately after notification, they will be constituted.
3.	Bihar	Bihar has laid down a calendar of events for the constitution of DPCs. Rules have been formulated for the same and are under vetting by the legal department.
4.	Gujarat	Gujarat does not have a DPC but a nominated body, the District Planning Board, created through government order. It has been reported that draft legislation for the constitution of DPCs has been prepared and will be moved in the next session of the legislature.
5.	Haryana	The Government of Haryana has decided to constitute DPCs in accordance with Article 243 ZD of the Constitution. The necessary rules and notifications are under issue.
6.	Jharkhand	Since Panchayats have not been elected, no DPCs have been constituted
7.	Maharashtra	Maharashtra has a district level body, with equal representation from nominated members and elected representatives. A legislation for DPCs was passed, but has not been implemented so far. Rules have been published for inviting objections and after considering them if any, the

rules will be finalised and will be followed by elections.

8. Punjab Punjab has enacted legislation for the constitution of DPCs in October05. The conduct of DPC elections is under the consideration of the Government.

9. Tripura In Tripura 70 % of the area is under the 6th Schedule. There is a single tier system in ADC areas. DPCs therefore cannot be established through legal provisions in these districts. Tripura states that they have examined the issue from a legal standpoint and are in the process of creating DPCs through executive orders for the areas coming under Part IX of the Constitution.

10. Uttar Pradesh Uttar Pradesh has enacted legislation for DPCs (in 1999), but is yet to issue the notification for the constitution of these bodies. They have a nominated body, the DPDC at the District level, which cannot be construed to be a DPC.

11. Uttaranchal Uttaranchal, which inherited the UP Panchayati Raj Act, has also not notified or constituted the DPCs. The matter is under the consideration of the Government.